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HARMONY IN OHIO

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 31.—A definite announcement was made from his headquarters here this morning that Charles P. Taft had withdrawn from the senatorial race, "in the interest of harmony." It is also stated that the Hamilton county delegates, the backbone of the Taft strength, will be delivered to Congressman Theodore E. Burton, thus insuring his election as the successor of Foraker. Taft issued a statement in which he said: "My candidacy from the beginning seems to have been misunderstood. I have been represented as urging on my own personal ambition at the expense of Republican harmony and success. The imputation is unjust, but that is of no moment now, as the cause exists no longer. I yield personal ambition for the accomplishment of better and more important things. I have long had an ambition to be senator from Ohio. I sought the honor without reliance upon popularity or prestige of any other man and especially without the expectation that my motives would be misinterpreted. Conditions have now arisen which impose a higher duty upon me than the gratification of personal ambition. It is clear that a prolonged contest for the senatorship would divide the Republican party of Ohio, and I am not willing to be responsible for that division. I withdraw as a candidate for senator, and with grateful appreciation release my friends from further effort on my behalf." Later Senator Foraker issued a statement in which he withdrew from the contest.

A Sketch of Burton.
Columbus, Dec. 31.—Theodore E. Burton, who will be elected senator from Ohio, served as a member of the fifty-first congress. He was defeated for reelection in 1890 but was elected to the fifty-fourth congress and has been a member of the succeeding congresses. While in that body he served as a member of the river and harbors

committee, later becoming chairman. While at the head of the committee, he took an active part in furthering plans for deep water ways. In 1907 he was nominated by the Republicans for mayor of Cleveland and carried on a spirited campaign against Tom Johnson but was unsuccessful in the contest. Burton is a lawyer by profession, and also an authority on science and has published several books on the subject.

Later in the day Gov. Andrew Harris and General J. Warren Kiefer also withdrew and it is stated Lieut. Gov. Harding would draw out of the race. The friends of Senator Charles Dick are deeply concerned over the developments today. It has been the inviolable rule of Ohio politics that the northern end and the southern end of the state should alternately name senators and as both Burton and Dick are from the north it is said the senatorship will go to a southern man in 1913. Taft will renew his candidacy at that date and Foraker's friends believe he too will make the race two years hence.

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NATIVES LEAVING ITALY BY THE THOUSANDS

Region of the Earthquake Will Be Depopulated If the Immigration Continues—Horror of the Earthquake Is Just Being Realized—Pestilence Will Surely Follow—Official Figures Show 110,000 Dead, But the Numbers Will No Doubt Be Greater.

Rome Italy, Dec. 31.—Slowly the measure of the disaster which depopulated Calabria and eastern Sicily has been taken and as the reports accumulate it is evident the first estimates in no sense exaggerated the extent and horror of the visitation. The official estimates place the dead at 110,000 but there is reason to believe this may be greatly exceeded.

Today the pitiful plight of the survivors claims universal attention and the relief of their sufferings calls for the concentrated attention of all nations. The dead are dead but the countless thousands of half demented naked and starving survivors, some wounded and some uninjured, who are crying pitifully for food, water, clothing, shelter and medical attention presents an awful situation.

No news has yet been received of Americans thought to be in the devastated district, excepting Rev. David S. Essums, of New Orleans and his daughter Alice, who are safe at Rome. It is reported that several Americans lost their lives in the wreck of hotels at Messina. Ambassador Griscom is about to go from Rome to the South in an endeavor to secure information concerning the missing American travelers.

It is estimated that one hundred thousand have fled from the desolated territory in fear of further convulsions. The latest estimate places the dead at Palmi and Bagnara at 14,000 and 12,000 respectively. Two thousand soldiers were killed at Reggio. The survivors say that for half an hour before the earthquake the heavens were filled with a gorgeous display of light resembling an aurora borealis. It is declared that not less than 25,000 living are still entrapped in the ruins and they are better dead as it is impossible to rescue them.

Terrible Tales of Suffering.
Rome, Dec. 31.—To the terrifying spectacle of death caused by Monday's earthquake has now been added the horror of starvation and the fear of pestilence in the ruins of Messina, Reggio and the various other towns in Sicily and Calabria. The bodies, litter the ruins, while everywhere are countless thousands of homeless people.

Words are inadequate to express the horror of the ruin and desolation that has overwhelmed Calabria and Sicily, where the trembling of the earth and fire and water combined to change a smiling verdant country into deserts. Messina exists no longer, and at least thirty years will be necessary to repair the ruin that nature's violence has wrought.

As yet it is impossible to obtain news from the little villages along the coast, and there are many who believe they are entirely wiped out. In many cases entire buildings were swept out into the sea and no trace remains of many flourishing villages that are wiped out of existence.

In the smaller towns such as Palmi, the suddenness and the completeness of the catastrophe is overwhelming. Of the fourteen thousand living in Palmi only a few score are living today. Yesterday 2,200 corpses were buried in the cemetery there. The survivors of Palmi, reinforced by rescuers from other points, are performing prodigies of valor.

The first of the survivors to reach Catanzaro from Reggio were so broken by the shock of their experiences, it was almost impossible for them to give a clear account of the destruction of the city. They speak disconcertedly of whole districts swept away in a moment and of entire families annihilated. Reggio remains isolated in ghastly desolation. The railroads and foot paths have been utterly destroyed, while the survivors lack food water and medical supplies.

Scenes of the weirdest nature are

being enacted at Messina and the other ruined cities. The grim advices have reached Palermo that clouds of crows have descended upon the stricken districts, having crossed the sea in response to some mysterious intuition of the disaster.

In Messina the rescuers frequently encounter processions of naked persons bearing images of saints. It is exceedingly difficult to deal with these frenzied survivors. According to reports brought by priests from the town of Scilla, near the famous rock of that name, the rock has completely vanished and owing to topographical alterations the site even has vanished.

Our Battleship Fleet Will Aid.
Washington, Dec. 31.—The great American Battleship Fleet built for purposes of destruction may after all go down in history as the greatest humanitarian agent in modern times. Not content with the outpouring of private charity, the American Government will probably direct the fleet to go to Messina and the other devastated Italian ports. The matter of dispatching the fleet on this mission is under consideration and a speedy decision to favor such employment is expected. The fleet will arrive at Port Said, the entrance of the Suez Canal on Sunday. There supplies will be taken aboard and the vessels rushed to Sicily.

Sending Aid From New York.
New York, Dec. 31.—The U. S. Naval supply ship Celtic will sail from this port today for Messina with one million five hundred thousand pounds of navy rations for the Italian earthquake sufferers. The rations were intended to supply the battleship fleet but the navy department authorized their delivery to the destitute Italians.

and Sicilians.
The U. S. Steel corporation today contributed \$25,000 to the Red Cross Society for the earthquake sufferers; the Standard Oil Company contributed \$10,000 to the same fund and Mrs. Russel Sage gave \$5,000 to the mayor's fund.

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1909 GREETINGS 1909

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